

**Garrison Golf**

*Soldiers, civilians participate in tourney to mark season opening*

Page 11

# Fort Riley Post

**Dance  
Dynamos**

*Kids learn ballet, tap and jazz in combination dance class.*

Page 13



Friday, May 19, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 49, No. 20

**Around  
the Army****Fort Knox**

The Turret reported May 11 that several new geothermal heating and cooling projects are beginning on post. Construction workers are digging several deep wells in the parking lot next to Building 1227, the latest geothermal project. Pipes will be laid in the wells and then filled with water.

Since the Earth's temperature in the Fort Knox region—several feet below the surface—is a cool 57 degrees year-round, that air temperature serves as a renewable energy source for heat in the winter and cool air in the summer, according to Fort Knox Energy Program Manager Gary Meredith.

Not only does the air replenish itself, but it's much more efficient to heat the air from its standard 57 degrees—rather than at freezing temperatures or below—up to the typical indoor comfort zones of the high 60s and low 70s.

Fort Knox has been using geothermal heating and cooling in some of its buildings for nearly 10 years.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news visit <http://www.theweekendprize.com/turret/> on the Web.

**Fort Bliss**

The Monitor reported May 11 on Soldiers training on the specifics and requirements of military funeral honors detail at the 647th Area Support Group Reserve Center.

Soldiers volunteered for a mission that is a lasting moment in the eyes of the people who witness them perform such honors. Three things that must happen during a military funeral honors detail are the playing of "Taps," the folding of the U.S. flag and the presentation of the U.S. flag to the next of kin.

To Sgt. Michael Edmondson, there was a time when he thought the detail was a meaningless one when he did it for the first time in January 2001. After 9/11, it took on a new meaning, but even more so after his father died. Edmondson's father didn't receive military funeral honors because they couldn't find his Department of Defense Form 214, which verifies a Soldier's release from active duty.

For more information on this story and other news from Fort Bliss visit <http://www.lavenpublishing.com/fortbliss-monitor.html> on the Web.

**Fort Gordon**

The Signal reported May 12 that America's Army computer game is among four federal initiatives named finalists for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award. If it wins, the Army will receive a \$100,000 grant supporting the dissemination of the initiative's innovation to other jurisdictions.

America's Army is a virtual online experience that has revolutionized the way Americans learn about, and potentially prepare for, Army career opportunities.

For more information on this story and other news from Fort Gordon visit <http://www.gordon.army.mil/pa/o/archives.htm> on the Web.

## Fair to help prospective home buyers

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

The Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council and the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor the Soldier Home Ownership Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 2 at Riley's Conference Center.

The fair was scheduled to accommodate the needs of the large influx of Soldiers arriving at Fort Riley starting in January 2006, said Jerome Howe, Plans, Analysis and Integration.

Current estimations from Fort Riley officials show that the Soldier population will grow to more than 18,000 by 2011. The current

population is 11,890. Fort Riley has 3,043 quarters on post and will add 400 during the next few years. Officials look to local communities to house the Soldiers and families that can't be accommodated in on-post housing.

The goal is to educate and inform Soldiers and their spouses about home buying and home

ownership so that they can make informed decisions, Howe said.

"We hope that by conducting a Home Ownership Fair that it will jump start the home ownership process and stimulate ownership," he said.

He added that Fort Riley is the first Army installation to host this kind of event, and if successful,

would be repeated.

Soldiers can get convenient and free access to a wide range of education topics and handouts and commercial entities involved in home buying and ownership. Howe said it was important to provide education and counseling about the importance of having

See Home fair, Page 4

## Building trust



Post/Stairrett

Staff Sgt. Will Shomaker, squad leader and Pfc. Matthew Mireles prepare to MEDEVAC Pvt. David Drake out of a simulated Iraqi village during 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, squad live-fire training May 16. Shomaker and Mireles are in 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Company A. Drake is a Soldier in 4th Squad, 1st Platoon.

## 'Black Lions' hold first squad live fire

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

Trust—a lot of it—is involved in a live fire, said Pvt. Alan Noe, Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment.

The squad automatic weapon gunner was in the field May 11, participating in a knock-out-a-bunker live fire with eight other Soldiers of the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon: Staff Sgt. Will Shomaker, Sgt. Marcos Chavez, Sgt. David Kennedy, Pfc.

Cristopher Baker, Pfc. Joseph Mueller, Pfc. Matthew Mireles, Pvt. Carson Reese, Pvt. Matt Hyland.

At 90 days, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon is the infantry battalion's oldest, said Maj. Erik Overby, battalion executive officer. It may be the granddaddy of the Black Lions' rifle platoons, but manned with Soldiers fresh out of basic training and Advanced Individual Training, it is hardly gray haired. The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team formally activated mid-January.

The May 11 exercise was the battalion's first live fire at the squad level, said Capt. Sean Lyons, assistant operations officer for the battalion.

"It's a good first training event for these guys—a lot of stuff that they'll need to learn for the future and stuff they haven't seen before," he said. "The best thing for them to learn right now, and the most difficult thing, is working together with multi-

See Live fire, Page 7

## Soldiers learn tracking

System helps Iron Rangers navigate, track 'friendlies'

By Anna Morelock  
Staff writer

"What time is lunch?" one Soldier typed in a message to the three others sitting at his table during a class at the Battle Simulation Center May 9.

The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Soldiers weren't slacking off during class, but instead following the instructions of their trainer as they learned how to use the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below—Blue Force Tracker system during a week-long class May 8-12.

Send a question in five words or less to everyone else at your table was the instruction given. What the Soldiers were learning that day was how to create address groups, send messages and reply to others in their group using the system.

Besides messaging, the BFT allows Soldiers to recognize other 'blue' or friendly forces and navigate on a computer system that is installed in their vehicle and hooked to a global positioning system.

"Probably the most important reason they learn to use BFT is because it may save their life," said Greg Burnett, a military trainer for BFT, of the Soldiers in his class. The system helps by letting Soldiers know where their buddies are, where they are and where the enemy is, he said. It's

See Blue force, Page 4

## 42 Soldiers, 1 civilian honored

Retirees served more than 940 years

Staff report

The Soldiers and one civilian retiring in April served with the U.S. Army for a combined total of more than 940 years. The 42 Soldiers who retired last month served in Korea, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Iraq, Egypt, Hawaii, Alaska, Bosnia, Italy, Turkey, Angola and Latvia. They have deployed to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bosnia, Kuwait, Yugoslavia and Macedonia.

The individuals will retire to locations such as Junction City, Manhattan and other areas surrounding Fort Riley, Wisconsin, Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, Maryland, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Michigan, Kentucky, Arizona, Germany and London.

After lives in the military, those retirees will take jobs in the government, teaching, truck driving, fire fighting and blacksmithing, among others. Others will become stay-at-home dads or will complete their educations.

See Retirement, Page 6

## Families visit 'Forsyth Village,' watch Soldiers battle insurgents

By Robert Timmons  
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers in full battle gear laughed and joked as they huddled behind the berm waiting for the attack signal. When four humvees slowly began creeping through a gap in the berm, the Soldiers crawled to the top of the steep grassy slope and suddenly rushed forward on the attack.

The unseen enemy lay waiting as the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team established a cordon and raided the ramshackle town looking for insurgents and weapons.

The villagers of the small hamlet, dubbed "Forsyth Village,"

trudged around aimlessly until the first Soldiers appeared.

For a few heart-pounding moments it was eerily silent.

Then suddenly, the sharp staccato of the cordon element's M-240B machine guns ripped through the air shattering the quiet. The rapid thudding of boots racing across pavement echoed as the assault teams entered the village.

Soldiers entered the first building to search for a reported weapons cache when the first insurgents began firing.

Sixty minutes into the two-hour assault, a three-man team rounded a corner and came face to face with civilians sitting on

camping chairs, drinking soft drinks and watching them intently. These were neither villagers nor insurgent. The onlookers were battalion family members watching their Soldiers during the unit's Family Day, May 13 at Camp Forsyth.

Battalion Soldiers demonstrated their military skills in an urban environment for the family picnic. The day was the culmination of a week-long force protection training in which the Soldiers learned base, convoy and urban operations.

"These Soldiers have been training hard," said Maj. Mark Martinez, battalion operations

See Family day, Page 3





# Battalions get new commanders

## Thomas takes over 4th Bn., 1st FA

## Reichling receives 'Kodiak' command

Lt. Col. Bobby R. Thomas, Jr. assumed command of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery from Lt. Col. Richard F. Bowyer May 19.

Bowyer assumed command of 4th Bn., 1st FA in June of 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following a short refit and reset back at Fort Riley, Bowyer redeployed his battalion to Taji, Iraq, for a second combat tour until February 2006. Bowyer will attend the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in July.

Incoming Commander Thomas was born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Lawton, Okla. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance and was commissioned as a field artillery second lieutenant in 1987. He later received a master's in business administration and is a graduate of the United States Army Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the Command and General Staff Officers Course.

Thomas has served at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Hood, Texas, and the National



**Lt. Col Bobby R. Thomas, Jr.**

Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. He first came to Fort Riley to serve as the 4th Bn., 1st FA battalion S-3 and as the battalion executive officer. He later became the secretary to the general staff for the commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech). After moving to serve as the brigade operations officer for division artillery, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea he returned to Fort Riley to serve as the garrison operations officer.

Thomas's awards and decorations include: five Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Korean Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Assault badge and the Parachutist badge. He is also a member of the Honorable Order of St. Barbara.

Thomas and his wife Lisa, also of Lawton, Okla., have two children: Ashley Elizabeth and Bobby Ray III.

Lt. Col. Vernie Lee Reichling, Jr., assumed command of the 70th Engineer Battalion from outgoing Commander Lt. Col. Anthony O. Wright May 17.

Wright has commanded the "Kodiaks" since July 2003. His next assignment is as the Engineer Branch chief.

Incoming Commander Reichling is a Kansas native and was commissioned as an Engineer Basic Course, Reichling reported to the 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as a platoon leader and led his platoon in the initial parachute assault into Panama during Operation Just Cause. He also served as the assistant brigade engineer, company executive officer and deployed with his company to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia.

He has been stationed in Germany and has deployed as part of the Implementation Force for Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia-Herzegovina. After earning his master's degree and graduating from the

Army Command and General Staff College, Reichling was assigned to the 937th Engineer Group, Fort Riley, where he served as the adjutant, and later, battalion operations officer and executive officer for the 70th Eng. Bn.

Since leaving Fort Riley, Reichling has been assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers' headquarters in Washington, D.C., and is currently assigned to the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Award, four Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrow Head Device, the NATO Medal, the Ranger Tab and the Senior Parachutist Badge with Combat Jump Star.

Reichling and his wife Julie have two children: a daughter, Jamie, and son, Eric.

*Editor's note: Battalion change of command stories are written from ceremony programs. Units should provide programs to the Post newspaper if they want the story printed.*

## Post, Army news briefly

### S2, security course offered

The DSEC is holding its semi-annual Security Managers Orientation Course for all S2 Personnel and Security Managers from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 26-27 at Riley's Conference Center. Items covered include, information security, personnel security (clearances), industrial security, security education, intelligence oversight, COMSEC, and physical security.

For more information contact Pete Paras at 239-3607.

questions regarding their duties; requested to provide military information; threatened, coerced, or pressured in any way to cooperate with a foreign intelligence service or foreign government official; offered assistance in gaining access to people or locations not routinely afforded Americans; contacted by foreign government law enforcement, security, or intelligence officials; any known, suspected, or possible unauthorized disclosure or deliberate compromise of classified information, regardless of the circumstances.

### Report incidents Recruiter to visit

All personnel should report counterintelligence incidents or information to the Fort Riley Field Office, 902nd Military Intelligence Group at 239-6580 or to Pete Paras, the installation security officer at 239-3607.

Reportable incidents are as follows:

- Attempts by unauthorized persons to obtain classified or unclassified information concerning U.S. Army facilities, activities, personnel, technology, or material.
- Known, suspected or contemplated acts of espionage by Army personnel.
- Contacts by DA personnel or their family members with persons whom they know or suspect to be members of or associated with foreign intelligence, security, or terrorist organizations.
- All incidents in which DA personnel or their family members traveling to or through foreign countries are: subjected to

1st SFOD-DELTA (Delta Force) recruiting team will visit Fort Riley on June 6. Please make plans to attend one of the following briefings to learn about possible career opportunities and information. All MOS's are encouraged to attend due to the diverse nature of the unit's capabilities.

Minimum requirements:

- Male
- GT score 110 or higher or able to raise to 110 prior to class start date
- At least 21 years old
- Minimum of 2 ½ years TIS
- E-4 through E-8

Briefing times are 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. on the June 6 at Riley's Conference Center, lower level.

For more information email [sof6recruiter@us.army.mil](mailto:sof6recruiter@us.army.mil)

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## Post, Army news briefly

### CCCC announces graduates

Cloud County Community College commencement activities are scheduled May 19. President Richard Underbakke announced 268 students will graduate from the college.

The Nurses' Pinning also will be included as part of the graduation ceremony.

All graduates, family and friends are invited to a reception in the CCCC cafeteria on the Concordia campus from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., May 19.

Outdoor commencement exercises begin at 7 p.m. at the Concordia High School Stadium, corner of 11th and Republican streets. The event recognizes graduates from both the Concordia and Geary County campuses.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, will be the commencement speaker.

In case of inclement weather, commencement exercises will be moved to the Arley Bryant Gymnasium at the college's Concordia campus.

Candidates for graduation from Fort Riley include: Kathy M. Belcher, Associate Of Arts; Ashley Tillery, Associate Of Science.

## Family day continued from page 1

officer. "Family Day provides our families the opportunity to see what their Soldiers do when they go off to work each day."

Phyllis Anderson, wife of Spc. Lamarr Anderson of Company A, said she was excited to be able watch her Soldier in action.

"I like it because I can see what he does, and I am more at ease because now I know what he is doing over there," she said. When he was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait she had no idea what he was doing, but now she has a small glimpse into his military life.

"Training during a Family Day makes it easier on family members," said Lamarr, a combat engineer from Spokane, Wash. "It makes it easier because they can see what is going on while we are deployed. When I was deployed my wife really didn't know what was going on. It's better that she can see if first hand and she can feel more comfortable about what we are doing."

Even though they had to train on a Saturday, some Soldiers were more than happy to show their families what they do.

"It's a good thing that some Soldiers get time to see their family while training," said Sgt. Jeremy Murphy from Company C.

Besides showing the families what their loved ones do on a daily basis, the training also brought the battalion team together, Murphy said.

"We have Soldiers from all companies in the battalion here learning how to interact with each other," said the Operation Enduring Freedom veteran, who was in



4th IBCT/Timmons

**Spc. Robert Bradford, Company A, watches intently as his team prepares to assault a suspected insurgent stronghold during the battalion's Family Day event May 13 at Forsyth Village.**

charge of enemy prisoners of war during the exercise.

Martinez elaborated further when he said the training was giving a broad base of knowledge to the battalion's Soldiers.

"Our experience base is made up of two extremes," he said.

"These Soldiers are either right out of basic training with zero experience, or battle hardened right out of Operations Enduring

and Iraqi Freedom. These lanes act as a leveling of knowledge."

"There are no military police, there are no signal guys here – everybody is just a Soldier learning different jobs," Murphy said.

The training is part of the rapid growth and vigorous training efforts 4th IBCT, the newest light infantry brigade in the Army, is doing to prepare itself for any mission at home or abroad.

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## Blue force continued from page 1

helping reduce fratricide or 'friendly fire' incidents.

While driving in a convoy, the first vehicle can radio the convoy commander saying, "I've got some suspicious looking personnel 200 meters to my right," said 1st Lt. Edward Ziembinski, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. S-1. "They don't even need to send a grid coordinate because the convoy commander can see right where the vehicle is at."

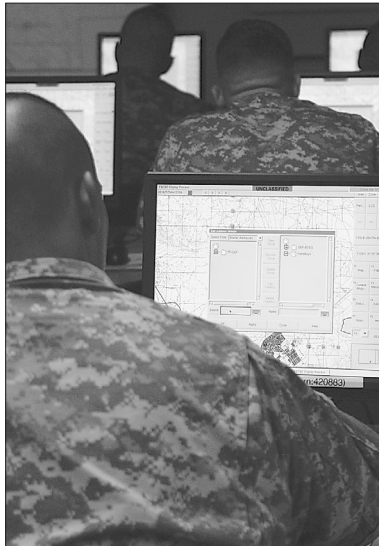
Burnett said the system is probably in 85 percent of the vehicles in Iraq. "It's a lifeline," he said of the system. "It gives them the ability to reach beyond a radio and make contact with somebody. They'll run out of radio range, but they'll never run out of BFT range because we're dealing with satellites."

Spc. Yehoshua Green, one of the students in the week-long class said he had already taken a one-day class on the system, but that this time around he was learning a lot more about it. Green, as a platoon Radio Telephone Operator, said learning the system was very pertinent to his job since he is pretty much responsible for all the communication that happens in his platoon.

"The point of these classes is we want more and more guys learning it because who knows who's going to be in command," Ziembinski said. "They're being put in all vehicles so it's just not company commanders and first sergeants who use this."

Spc. Alan Parsons is an Iron Ranger gunner and said the system is completely new to him and he is learning a lot from the training. "I could get on there and report to everybody what's going on if the guy that normally would be on there wasn't available."

The battalion's goal is that every Soldier have a working knowledge of the system. When Companies B and C deploy toward the end of the year, they should have "Humvees" waiting



*Post/Morelock*  
**Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry practice sending free text messages to the other Soldiers sitting at their tables. The "Iron Rangers" participated in a week-long training at the Battle Simulation Center to learn how to use the Blue Force Traker software. The software will help them track friendly forces, enemy forces, navigate and send messages from their vehicles.**

for them with the system installed, Ziembinski said.

Soldiers will still use their radios for communication because that is faster than typing out a message on the BFT. "It's just a different form of communication because you never know when something's going to break," he added.

During the week the Soldiers learned how to configure their

systems, prepare them for combat, set up maps, use the system's navigational functions, and send different types of messages such as combat messages, spot reports, medical evacuation messages, and messages to report improvised explosive devices.

*Anna Morelock can be contacted at [anna.morelock@riley.com](mailto:anna.morelock@riley.com) or 239-3032.*

## Marines move from Okinawa

*By Steven Donald Smith*  
**APFS**

The United States will move 8,000 Marines from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam by 2012, Defense Department officials said April 25.

The move is part of a broader Alliance Transformation Realignment agreement between the United States and Japan. An agreement in principle for the move was made in October with the Security Consultative Committee Report. It was finalized April 23, when U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Japanese Minister of State for Defense Fukushima Nukaga met at the Pentagon to work out cost-sharing particulars, DoD

officials said.

The realignment limits the burden of the Japanese people but still allows the United States to maintain credibility and deterrence in the region. "That's the balance we've struck with this particular arrangement," Richard Lawless, deputy under-secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific affairs, told reporters at the Pentagon.

Some U.S. troops will remain on Okinawa but will be moved from the Futenma Air Station to a new location at Camp Schwab. "Futenma involves a relocation of forces on Okinawa," Lawless said. "It's part of a consolidation."

Lawless said U.S. forces and the Japan Self-Defense Force are cooperating in a number of

other areas as well, including with air defenses and the collocation of troops at Yokota Air Base, Japan. "That is a very tangible benefit to the alliance. That we are co-locating our forces makes us much more interoperable and creates a truly bilateral interoperative, balanced alliance," he said.

In addition, the USS George Washington will be based in Japan in coming years, which demonstrates the importance the United States places on the alliance, Lawless said. "This is the only place a carrier will be based outside of the United States of America," he said. "The Marine relocation to Guam should be seen in the context of

*See Marines, Page 8*

## Home fair continued from page 1

good credit and how to establish or improve a credit rating.

Counselors will also be on hand to provide Soldiers with credit reports and interpretations of those reports. The credit counseling sessions will be conducted by qualified Fort Riley personnel and will be confidential, Howe said.

"All of this supports the goal of education so Soldiers can make informed decisions," Howe said.

The event will include education seminars and exhibitor booths representing businesses from Junction City, Manhattan, and surrounding areas such as Council Grove, Clay Center, Wamego, Herington, Abilene and Chapman. Representatives from credit and mortgage companies, real estate agents, home builders, inspectors, home insurance agencies, landscaping companies and remodeling companies will provide information at the booths, said Beverly Orr, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers to help with the event. Vol-

unteer opportunities are available: 1 to 4 p.m. June 1, 8:30 a.m. to noon and noon to 3:30 p.m. June 2. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Carol Moore at [carol@manhattan.org](mailto:carol@manhattan.org).

### Home Ownership Fair seminars

9 to 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1 p.m.: "Buying a Fixer-Upper," presented by Brad Claussen, City of Manhattan building inspector

9:30 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 1:30 p.m.: "The ABCs of Buying a Home," Matt Shelton, Staff Judge Advocate Legal Assistance.

10 to 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 2 p.m.: "First-Time Home Buyer Programs" with the Kansas City Regional Housing and Urban Development office.

10:30 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 2:30 p.m.: "Life as a Home Owner," Donna Martinson, Geary County Extension Office and Jennifer Wilson, Riley County Extension Office

11 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m.: "Let's Talk Credit" and "How to Read Your Credit Report," Jocelyn Stephenson, Housing Credit and Counseling, Inc., Manhattan Office

For more information on the Fair, contact Jerome Howe at Plans, Analysis and Integration at 239-6696.

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## Post, Army news briefly

### Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the racially motivated bomb threats directed toward the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Riley between February and April of 2006.

Anyone with information concerning this incident should call Special Agent Jeff Lasley of the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931 or the post military police at (785) 239-6767.

### Patients treated at clinic

Dr. Charles Radmer and Maj. Carla Crouch, a nurse practitioner, will move their practices to Caldwell Clinic and see their patients there.

The clinic opened May 1. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

### Web site offers assistance

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) has transformed its Web site at <http://www.acap.army.mil/> to provide faster, more direct access to information through eight user paths, each tailored to a specific client population.

The paths are Army leaders, active-component Soldiers, reserve-component Soldiers, retirees, veterans, Department of the Army civilians, family members and employers.

ACAP provides transition and employment-assistance services, helping users assess their abilities, create effective resumes, prepare for job interviews and more.

## Retirement

continued from page 1

### April retirees

- Chief Warrant Officer Jerry R. Couch, 30 years, 82nd Medical Company

- Sgt. Maj. James Anthony Crisp, 23 years, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment

- 1st Sgt. Thomas F. Cotton, 22 years, 70th Engineer Battalion
- 1st Sgt. Harold A. Stafford, 28 years, 3rd Brigade Combat Team

- Master Sgt. Mark A. Chalans, 20 years, 70th Eng. Bn.
- Master Sgt. Claudine Utley, 26 years, 6025TH Garrison Support Unit
- Master Sgt. Larry S. Wimberley, 30 years, Fort Riley Reserve Component Transition

- Sgt. 1st Class Izzy M. Barela, 20 years, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael Blue, 21 years, 3rd BCT

- Sgt. 1st Class Dale S. Covill, 22 years, 3rd BCT

- Sgt. 1st Class James R. Dawson, 20 years, 1st Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment

- Sgt. 1st Class Martin L. Dement, 20 years, 3rd Battalion, 382nd Aviation Regiment

- Sgt. 1st Class Orville T. Evans, 21 years; 3rd BCT

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Finklin, 20 years, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment

- Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Fowler, 22 years, 1st Bn., 13th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Gerlach, 20 years, 1st Bn., 13th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class Terry K. Goddard, 24 years, 331st Signal Company

- Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Hale, 24 years, 1st Bn., 13th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class Warner L. Howard, 20 years, 2nd Battalion, 291st Aviation Regiment

- Sgt. 1st Class Hans P. Kwoka, 21 years, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class John H. Lewis Jr., 22 years, 331st Signal Co.
- Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Marciano, 22 years, 125th Forward Support Battalion

- Sgt. 1st Class Troy E. Parson, 20 years, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor
- Sgt. 1st Class John F. Pease, 21 years, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.
- Sgt. 1st Class Ronald L. Rollins, 20 years, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor

- Sgt. 1st Class Henry Rosadobou, 22 years, 125th Forward Support Battalion
- Sgt. 1st Class Reed A. Rutherford, 20 years, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
- Sgt. 1st Class Timothy G. Sensat, 20 years, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

- Sgt. 1st Class Johnny L. Stewart, 24 years, 125th FSB
- Sgt. 1st Class Michael D. Vician, 23 years, 1st Bn., 13th Armor
- Sgt. 1st Class Johnny D. Webb, 20 years; 1st Bn., 41st Inf.
- Sgt. 1st Class David W. Westphal, 20 years, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

- Staff Sgt. Felix Ayala, Jr., 20 years, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech)
- Staff Sgt. Stacy J. Baker, 20 years, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor
- Staff Sgt. Daniel H. Dezees, 20 years, 4th Battalion 1st Field Artillery

- Staff Sgt. Donald H. Hansen, 20 years, 1st Bn., 34th Armor
- Staff Sgt. Daniel M. Matheyny, 22 years, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech)
- Staff Sgt. Steven L. Murankus, 21 years, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.

- Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Peterson, 20 years, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor
- Staff Sgt. Sidney W. Sizemore, 20 years, 4th Bn., 1st FA
- Staff Sgt. Robert S. Wilken, 21 years, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor

- Sgt. Mark T. Ferrell, 20 years, 1st Engineer Battalion

- John F. Ray, 34 years of Federal Civil Service, Chief of Customer Focus Division and Classification Proponent, Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center.

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2x5 Brooks Motorcycle







Post/Stairrett

Pfc. Brooks Baker, 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, approaches an Iraqi village during ambush training May 16. 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, organized live-fire training exercises May 9-19. Squads moved through two lanes of training: knock out a bunker and squad ambush. Baker and the rest of his squad had to move through a simulated village, practicing target identification and discrimination.

## Live fire continued from page 1

ple maneuver elements."

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 28th Infantry lived in the field for weeks, running through two lanes of live fires, knock out a bunker and squad ambush. The first involved five tasks: passage of lines from a friendly area, or "going through the wire," as Lyons called it; a react-to-contact battle drill; knocking out an enemy bunker using an AT-4 anti-tank rocket and identifying and disposing improvised explosive device-making supplies; evacuating a casualty and establishing a pick-up zone.

During execution of these lanes, Soldiers must employ numerous basic infantryman skills – everything from throwing hand grenades to first aid to rigging demolitions. In the week leading up to the live fire, squads moved through the lanes in a series of dry and blank runs.

A group of evaluators, including Lyons, Capt. Bret Hamilton, Co. A commander and Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, battalion commander, followed each squad through the lane. The squads were videotaped and their performances later assessed.

During the squad ambush live

fire May 16, the Soldiers had to approach an enemy village, plant a claymore mine, search for weapons and IED-making supplies and then evacuate an injured Soldier.

Noe explained that camaraderie and trust in his team and squad were essential in a live fire because of the teamwork involved. One team supports by fire and another has to lay down suppression fire. The first team then has to cross into the other's lanes, putting up signals along the way. The second team has to recognize those signals and shift their fire over to lead the assaulting team and then eventually stop firing, without skipping a beat, when the first team gets too close to their sector of fire, he said.

"It was tough. It was a smoker, but it was fun," Noe said of the knock-out-a-bunker lane. "I had a blast and always love to burn some powder and it was great training."

First Squad, 1st Platoon Soldiers were staying highly motivated, said Kennedy, bravo team leader.

"They're doing outstanding considering this is actually our first live fire. It's the first time our whole squad's actually been together and been able to work together and I think they're coming along great," he said.

Training at the squad level is some of Kennedy's favorite because he gets more one-on-one time with his three Soldiers.

"You have more control," he said. "I have more of a job in squad training. You actually learn more about your Soldiers."

Pulling off training like this isn't easy, Overby said.

"It takes an awful lot of cooperation – a lot of help for an infantry battalion to pull off training this good. It's good. I think the Soldiers like it and we've had a whole lot of cooperation and a whole lot of help to be able to pull this off," he said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3328.



Post/Stairrett

Pvt. Alan Noe (front) and Sgt. Daniel Kennedy (rear) prepare to approach an Iraqi village as part of a 1st Bn., 28th Infantry, squad ambush live-fire training exercise May 16. Kennedy, Bravo Team leader, and Noe, a SAW gunner, are Soldiers in 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. Kennedy said the two lanes of live fires were the first time the Soldiers have participated in such training as an entire squad.

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## Post, Army news briefly

### Bill calls for new retirement age

H.R. 783 has been introduced to reduce the age for military retired pay eligibility from 60 to 55 for members of the Reserves and National Guard. The bill would lower the retirement age for those who have served at least 20 years to begin to draw their retirement pay at age 55. Active duty forces have no age restrictions once their 20 years of service is complete. Members of the National Guard and reservists in the Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Marine and Air Force would qualify at age 55 for retirement pay based on individual participation in the retirement plan.

### New prefix implemented

Fort Riley recently implemented a new telephone number prefix of 240. The implementation was necessary because the 239 prefix has reached its 10,000-line capacity. All 239 telephone numbers will remain in use.

The Defense Switched Network access number of 856 still is applicable to all users of 239 telephone numbers when receiving calls from personnel located at other posts, camps, bases and stations utilizing DSN.

A new Defense Switched Network access number of 520 will be associated with all 240 telephone numbers installed on Fort Riley. The DSN access number of 520 is the prefix personnel from other posts, camps, bases and stations should use when calling Fort Riley 240 telephone numbers.

For example, if your telephone number is 240-2222 and a person located at Fort Hood, Texas, wishes to call you, that person would dial 520-2222 and establish the call using the DSN. If you are receiving a call from the commercial world or family member, the caller would dial 1-785-240-2222.

The refuse pick-up schedule will change May 29 through June 2 in observance of Memorial Day. The schedule is:

**May 29** – No pick-up, Memorial Day holiday.

**May 30** – Colyer Manor, Main Post and the dumpster at Building 620.

**May 31** – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Peterson Heights north of Thomas Avenue, Marshall Army Airfield and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 471, 540, 542 and 5309.

**June 1** – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights and the dumpster at Building 620. (No change from regular schedule.)

**June 2** – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, O'Donnell Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights south of Thomas Avenue and the dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call Paul Cassella in the Contract Inspection Branch, 239-6274.

### PW staff slates training

Battery Hazard Awareness Training (Code Name Lithium) at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in Building 1930 at Camp Funston. The class lasts one hour.

This course is designed for key personnel who in the course of their duties receive, store, issue and then transport lithium batteries for disposal. This course includes training on the characteristics and hazards associated with the various types of lithium batteries used on Fort Riley.

This course includes training on health, safety and personal protective equipment when handling lithium batteries.

For more information or to enroll, call 239-2305 or 239-0446 or check with a battalion schools noncommissioned officer.

# Military transition teams coach, mentor Iraqi units

By Jim Garamone  
Army News Service

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Serving on a military transition team may be the most important job in Iraq today, as members work with Iraqi units to realize President Bush's promise: As the Iraqis stand up, we'll stand down.

Military Transition Team 0911, the "Mohawks," is where the rubber meets the road. The team works with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade of the Iraqi 9th Division, the "Desert Lions." The Iraqi unit is a mechanized outfit and patrols the area north of this sprawling base, securing the three water points that supply 70 percent of the capital's drinking water.

## Varied backgrounds

The U.S. team is made up of soldiers pulled together last year. They come from a variety of branches and military occupational specialties. Some, such as brigade advisor Lt. Col. Chuck Payne and Master Sgt. John McFarland, came off retirement to take the job. Others came from the Pentagon, Fort Rucker, Ala., Hawaii, Japan and Fort Lewis, Wash. Their medic is a Utah National Guardsman.

The team mentors, coaches, teaches and circulates with Iraqi units on the battlefield, constantly pushing their Iraqi counterparts to take on the enemy.

The enemy near here, a mix of former regime loyalists, unemployed young men and just plain criminals, is waging war with

improvised explosive devices. "They are bold and getting bolder," said 1st Battalion Advisor Maj. Mike Jason. Anti-Iraqi forces have placed IEDs almost within sight of the gates of this sprawling American and Iraqi base.

The brigade went fully operational and has had its own battle space since December. "It's not that large, but it's intense," Jason said. "Insurgent activity in the area has increased."

The battalion mans a number of checkpoints, both fixed and roving, in its area each day. Even so, the enemy still manages to emplace four or five IEDs a day, Jason said.

"The enemy is very adept at changing his methodology and evolving to what we do," Payne said.

## Dismounting

The key is dismounted operations, Payne said. This requires a cultural change by both Americans and Iraqis. The American unit - the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division - is a heavy brigade combat team, and the Iraqi unit is mechanized. "Just like our American brothers, this Iraqi brigade is wedded to their vehicles," Payne said.

That isn't to say that change isn't happening. The Iraqis carried out a dismounted patrol on a major north-south route last week. Payne said it was a good operation, but they patrolled in 105-degree heat with full body armor.

"After two kilometers on a flat, paved road, the Iraqis were

spent," he said. "I wanted to go three more kilometers, but it was too much. (Heck,) just doing battlefield circulation can leave you exhausted."

But getting off the tanks or armored personnel carriers is important. "When you leave the wire in this area, your chances of encountering an IED are significant," Payne said. "We don't drive down dirt roads around here, and this gives the enemy control of the countryside. He has freedom of maneuver and initiative. Dismounted patrols are the way to take that back."

"The enemy is afraid of us. He does not want to get engaged in a direct fire confrontation, but we're not out there, now and this has to change."

## Grasping logistics

Logistics is among the other problems. The MTT is working to help the Iraqis grasp the notion of logistical support. Another aspect is cultural and rooted in the former regime. Officers and NCOs were disciplined if they showed initiative in the past. "They still are afraid to act on their own unless the commander approves it," Jason said. "We're working very hard, but it's difficult."

Payne emphasized that the teams need more resources to succeed. Medical and air support are crucial. He and Jason told of an incident when an Iraqi company commander was wounded and it took two-and-a-half hours to evacuate him.

The teams do receive soldiers from the "partnered" units. The

1st Battalion, 66th Armor, partners with the Iraqi 1st Mechanized Battalion, and has soldiers coaching and mentoring the Iraqis alongside the MTT. But the unit itself is small - armored battalions usually are - and 1-66 has its own battle space to manage.

The newness and nature of Iraqi service also works against success. The Iraqi soldiers serve for 21 days and then have a week's leave, when they deliver their pay to their families.

"This is often the most dangerous part of their services," Jason said. "They are soldiers in the new Iraqi Army and the insurgents are out to get them. Many have been killed while on leave. We have to devise a better, safer way of getting them to and from home."

Yet even with all the strikes against it, the battalion and brigade are making progress. The unit literally built all its own vehicles from remains found in scrap yards. Its members are aggressive and want to take the fight to the enemy. They are proud of their service and their appearance in uniform confirms this.

"We often take two steps forward and one step back. (Heck) sometimes it's two steps back," Payne said. "But they are taking the steps."

The team will continue to work with the battalion, the brigade, and soon, the 9th Division itself. When the team's year is up, another team will take its place. "In the meantime, we're making a difference," Jason said. "This is a job that must succeed."

## Marines

continued from page 4

the whole range of changes being made to transform the alliance, Lawless said.

"The idea is to resolve, in one fell swoop, all or almost all of the long-standing issues that have

inhibited the alliance going forward."

Defense officials characterized the realignment of U.S. forces in the Pacific as a strategic move, similar to domestic Base Realign-

ment and Closure moves.

"In many ways this is similar to the resource trades that we've made to secure broader transformation domestically with BRAC," Philip W. Grone, deputy

undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, said.

"These are choices we've made in the broader national interest."

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# Fort Riley Soldier in hospital while HBO taped show

## Documentary examines combat hospital

By Steven Donald Smith  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The new HBO documentary film "Baghdad ER" is much more than just a series of gruesome images flickering across a screen. It is a poignant testament to the sacrifice of American troops and the dedication of military medical personnel.

Filmmakers Jon Alpert and Matthew O'Neill were given eight weeks of unfettered access to the Army's 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad during the spring and summer of 2005. The result is a compelling film that examines the daily rigors faced by doctors, nurses, medics and chaplains as they treat wounded troops.

The film also includes frontline rescue footage of the 54th Medical Company Air Ambulance Team, as well as soldiers patrolling the streets of Baghdad, and is interspersed with surprising moments of humor.

Army Col. Casper P. Jones III, commander of the 86th Combat Support Hospital, told American Forces Press Service that the film captures the reality of what goes on at the hospital.

"I think it's an accurate depiction of the medical facility. I think it gives a real-life view of what it's like in a trauma center in a combat zone," he said. "I think it shows the physicians, nurses and technicians, and our chaplain involved in compassionate caring and world-class health care."

Sheila Nevins, head of HBO's documentary film division, said the film has no political agenda, and is simply meant to celebrate the heroism and bravery of the men and women in uniform.

"That might sound very cliché and trite, but for whatever it's worth, I'm humbled by their courage," she said at a screening of the movie at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History here May 15th.

The main mission of the combat support hospital is to stabilize wounded troops in order to transfer them out of Iraq to receive further treatment, Jones said. He called the unit's primary mission "resuscitative care."

"Our job is to save life, limb and eyesight, to stabilize and move the patients," he explained.

Patients are usually transferred from Iraq to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, and then on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center here. The transfer usually happens within 36 hours, Jones said.

Iraqi civilian patients are moved into the Iraqi health care system, he added.

The colonel said the survival rate for wounded U.S. troops is the highest in history. "I hope when people view the film, they come away with a definite sense



Medical personnel work on a patient in a scene from HBO's documentary film "Baghdad ER."

HBO courtesy photo

of confidence that the medical care we provide to our wounded warriors is the best in the world," he said.

Army Sgt. Jeffrey Beltran, 70th Engineer Battalion, who was treated during filming, agreed with Jones' assessment. Beltran was injured May 29, 2005, when his convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device. The makeshift bomb shattered his left knee, broke his fibula, and peppered his body with fragment wounds.

"The hospital staff was very professional," Beltran said. "I think we have the best military care in the world. The medical units that are deployed over there should be commended because they've saved a lot of lives."

Army Dr. (Maj.) Merrit Pember, who also appears in the film, said he felt the film was an accurate portrayal of what it was like to work at the medical facility. "I thought it was a good film. I thought it accurately portrayed what was going on there on a routine basis," he said. "I also thought that it really showed how well wounded soldiers are cared for."

Pember said his deployment to Iraq was the most challenging medical experience of his life. "I had never seen that degree of trauma. The energy behind the wounds I was seeing over there kind of took me by surprise initially," he said.

"It's a biased opinion, but it's the best trauma facility I've ever seen," he continued, "from the battlefield to the operating room in an hour with every asset possible mobilized to save everybody that came through the door."

The doctor said he came away from his experience in Iraq with newfound admiration for American warfighters. "I certainly developed a whole new respect for these guys," he said. "Even after they're wounded, which you see in the film, they're ready to get back out there and do their job. I find that very impressive."

Jones said he also was impressed by the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the injured troops. "Let me tell you something, when you're down there in the emergency room, the first thing most of the soldiers and Marines ask about is their buddy," he said. "They want to know how they are. That's the first thing out of their mouth."

The colonel said the most interesting and touching moment during his command came when an insurgent complimented the American doctors who had treated him. "Through a translator he said, 'I never knew Americans were so good.' That speaks volumes for what Army medicine is doing as we prosecute this war on terror," Jones said.

## Home wanted



Post/Stairrett

### Tommy

Tommy is a buff-and-white-colored, 9- or 10-month-old domestic shorthair male. This is his third time at the Fort Riley Stray Facility. He came December 2005 as a stray kitten, and was adopted. His first owner returned him after only one month. Tommy's second family is preparing to move and he was brought to the facility again. He is looking for a family to adopt him permanently. Tommy is un-neutered, up-to-date on his shots and has a microchip. He is very playful, but doesn't get along well with other animals so he should be an only pet.

A local couple who live on a farm adopted Ferdinand, last week's featured pet.

**Fort Riley Stray Facility**  
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post  
**Hours:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday  
**Phone:** (785) 239-3886.

### Show time:

**Baghdad ER will air on HBO May 21, at 8 p.m. It contains graphic images of wounded Soldiers and adult language. Caution is advised in watching.**

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# Soldier show unveils 'Reveille'

By Tim Hips

Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The 2006 U.S. Army Soldier Show unveiled "Reveille: Answering the Call" during a three-performance weekend May 5 through 7 at Wallace Theater at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"The entire idea came from the new Army motto: Call to Duty," said Soldier Show director Victor Hurtado. "For our civilian audience, it may illustrate why people join. For our military audience, it might remind them why — what their initial reasons were and why they continue to serve."

The bottom line, however, remains the same: "Entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier," the working motto of Army Entertainment Division.

"We have some really strong voices and really strong performers, so you might see some flash and splash," Hurtado said. "But you might be surprised by how powerful the 'less is more' is in the show, as well. Expect to find moments."

The 22-Soldier troupe now begins a six-month tour with about 100 scheduled performances on military installations across the United States and in Italy and Germany.

Hurtado credits Army Entertainment Division's 1st Sgt. Taron Pierce for brainstorming the show's starting point of reveille. He also relies on the creativity of 17 Soldier-performers and five technicians before weaving their artistic strengths into a military storyline.

"With a show like this, a lot of it has to say something, but not all of it has to say something because at the end of the day we also have to entertain," Hurtado said. "Not every scene is going to start with the story of a Soldier. Sections of the show are just about new music or having a good time or just about fun."

Hurtado is reluctant to reveal the complete storyline.

"So much of what the show is [about] will be illustrated at the beginning, but I really don't want to give it away," he said. "The show itself will fortify those bits



Spc. Elisabeth Graham of Fort Jackson, S.C., plays the violin during the U.S. Army Soldier Show's performance of "Breakaway" by Kelly Clarkson.

and pieces."

Rhythm and blues, gospel and country music will be featured, along with new renditions of tunes released since the 1960s, coupled with ballroom dancing aplenty.

"I'm looking for our staff to come up with some original lyrical content that will say exactly what we want to say," Hurtado said. "We are an eclectic reflection of what comes to us at the moment. We're not married to anything."

Eight veterans of the Army's Margaret "Skipper" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest or Military Idol are among the cast and crew that ranges in rank from private first class to captain.

Spc. Richard Sianova of Fort Irwin, Calif., finished runner-up in the inaugural Military Idol competition. Spc. Serri Sheridan of Fort Polk, La., was best-of-show runner-up in the 2006 Stars of Tomorrow Contest and participated in Military Idol. First Lt. Sonya Moore of the California Army National Guard participated in both programs.

Sgt. Geno Nash of Fort Hood, Texas, and Spc. Adel Nammour of Yongsan, Korea, also competed in Stars of Tomorrow, along with Pfc. Jong Back Yoon, a Korean augmentation to the U.S. Army, KATUSA Soldiers are fully integrated into a U.S. Army unit and live, work and train with their American comrades.

"I just wanted the guy to come and represent his unit, but it's turned into representing his entire country, the Republic of Korea," Hurtado said.

Yoon already has performed at the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Other Military Idol contestants include Staff Sgt. Deneen Murray of Camp Humphries, Korea, and Spc. Lucky Tagalao of Fort Hood.

Hurtado spotted Hawaii Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Samuel Hesch during auditions for "Miss Saigon" and noted that he bypassed a role in "Cats" to perform in the Soldier Show. Spc. Elisabeth Graham of Fort Jackson, S.C., is a violinist, and Spc. Nina Kazibwe, stationed in Kitzingen, Germany, is a pianist.

First Lt. Alisha Vaughn of Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Spcs. Maceo Keeling of Fort Lee, Va.; John Morris of Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Alisha Osborne of the New York Army Reserve; Jessica Solorio of Wuerzburg, Germany; and Benjamin Piel of Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., complete the list of performers.

Sgt. Kristen Austin of Fort Bliss, Texas, is the wardrobe technician. Capt. Christine Lancia of Fort Polk, La., serves as assistant stage manager. Sgt. Jemel Washington of Fort Lewis, Wash., handles video and audio. Spc. Daniel Murray of Fort Hood is an audio specialist. Spc. Bradford Cassels of Fort Bragg, N.C., mans the lights.

Sgt. Irving Berlin wrote the first U.S. Army Soldier Show while on active duty at Camp Upton in Long Island, N.Y. "Yip Yip Yaphank" debuted on Broadway in 1918.

Tim Hips writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.

## Post, Army news briefly

### Clothing sales to change hours

The Military Clothing and Sales Store in the Main PX will change its hours to 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning May 22.

### 4th Bde. names top Soldiers

Spc. Timothy Stephens of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, was recently selected as 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldier of the Quarter.

Staff Sgt. Juan Pepi of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, was selected as 4th IBCBT noncommissioned officer of the third quarter.

The Fort Riley Soldier and NCO of the quarter will be selected this month and honored at 4 p.m. May 22 in Riley's Conference Center.

### Command change planned

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, will conduct a battalion change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. June 7.

The outgoing commander is Lt. Col. David Batchelor. The incoming commander is Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert.

### Post graduation ceremony set

A combined graduation ceremony for Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of local colleges or Servicemember Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees college programs at 1 p.m. June 7 at King Field House.

For information on how to participate, call Adelma Morales at 239-6481.

Education Services Learning Centers will not be available from 10:30 a.m. June 7 through the end of the day for the graduation ceremony.

### ISO offers weather training

Members of the Fort Riley Installation Safety Office are available for severe weather safety training. Training covers indicators of severe weather, developing emergency action plans and other safety tips.

To arrange a class date, time and location, call the safety office at 239-2514.

### PW plans organization day

The Directorate of Public Works will conduct its annual organization day picnic and awards ceremony for employees and their families June 16.

Minimal staffing will be maintained in the directorate from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, so critical functions remain operational.

For more information, call Dee Royse at 239-3906.

### \$1,000 reward offered

For information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a white 2006 Yamaha YFM700RVW, all-terrain vehicle, vehicle identification number (VIN) JY4AM07Y36C018342, and a black utility trailer, serial number 2000, from the parking lot adjacent to Building 7224 at Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is urged to call the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931, or the Military Police at (785) 239-6767.

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, May 19, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

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## Sports news in brief

### Governor's Youth Fish set

The Governor's Youth Fish will be held June 3 at Milford Lake in Outlet Park (Gathering Pond), Shelter #11, which is located below the Milford Lake dam. This Youth Fish is a part of the 2006 Kansas Wildlife Foundation's Governor's Golf & Fishing Classic Tournament to be held at Milford Lake on June 2-3.

The Youth Fish will be open to the first 100 children who pre-register and are between the ages of 5 and 12. Parents and or guardians are required to attend with the younger children. The event is free of charge and will consist of a fishing clinic, a fishing derby, and a casting contest. On June 3, check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the clinic portion starting at 9 a.m. The event will end by noon. Children may be pre-registered by calling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at (785) 238-5714.

Loaner rods and reels will be available for all participants so children do not need to bring their own equipment. Bait will also be provided for the fishing derby. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place finishers in the casting contest for each of the following age groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. The Kansas Wildlife Foundation will be providing all participants a free rod and reel combo at the conclusion of the event.

For more information contact Park Ranger Cynthia Dierks at (785) 238-5714 or Cynthia.f.dierks@usace.army.mil.

### Aikido classes to be offered

Aikido instruction will be offered by Daniel Hayes from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays in Long Fitness Center on Custer Hill.

All Soldiers and Department of Defense family members 18 and older can participate.

For more information, call Sgt. William Kinsman at 239-5716 or staff members at King Field House or send e-mail to william.kinsman@riley.army.mil.

### Outdoor rec changes hours

Summer hours for the Outdoor Recreation Center will run from May 28 through Sept. 9. Hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

For more information, call Carol Alexander at 239-2249.

### KU to host 'Heroes Series'

The University of Kansas will host the Heroes Series vs. Texas A&M May 19-21. Teachers, doctors, police officers, fire and medical personnel and armed forces personnel can buy two tickets for the price of one to each ballgame in the series.

Armed forces personnel will be recognized during the May 20 game. Military IDs should be presented at the ticket booth to get the special ticket offer.

## Tagged chickens share information

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

It was PT-time at Fort Riley and anyone on post that early was running or pushing ground. Yet for Ryan Jones and handful of the post's other wildlife biologists, it was the perfect time for trapping and tagging greater prairie chickens.

It was unusually foggy April 17

and Jones sat in a pickup in a training area northwest of Custer Hill, scanning the horizon with a pair of binoculars. His eyes rested on faint movement in the distance. With the naked eye it was nearly impossible to make out the small puffs of brown fluttering several hundred meters ahead. Through binoculars, the little puffs became feathered bowling balls strutting in circles around

each other — males fighting for the attention of a female.

While Soldiers competed to see who was the strongest and who could tough it out during PT, proud little birds puffed up their chests and an epic battle unfolded, unbeknownst to anyone on post except for Jones and his colleagues.

The tagging program began in Spring 2005, and since then, 50

birds have been outfitted with a lightweight radio transmitter around their necks. The 12-gram transmitter fits underneath the bird's feathers and from there, conservation employees can determine the prairie chickens' reproduction, survival rates and movements.

Prairie chickens can be hunted in the fall at Fort Riley, in a season set by the Kansas Department

of Wildlife and Parks. Hunters who shoot a prairie chicken fitted with a transmitter are asked to return the device to the Conservation Office on Huebner Road.

The trapping and tagging season started in the last week of March. Nets and walk-in traps are set up in areas where the flamboyant males congregate to win over the females. They gather in about

See Chickens, Page 12

## Fore!



Alex Rexrode, a Junction City business owner, watches Johnny Yarbrough tee off during the Garrison Spring Golf Tournament May 12 at Custer Hill Golf Course. Yarbrough is a locomotive engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad. Twenty-one four person team played in the tournament, which marked the kick off of the golf season at Fort Riley.

## Garrison tourney kicks off golf season

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

A large blue bear watched Col. Thomas Smith, Garrison commander, tee off at the first hole May 12 during the Garrison Golf Tournament, and clapped after an impressive drive.

The bear, the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation mascot, the colonel and 21 four-person teams were on hand to celebrate the kick-off of the 2006 season at Custer Hill Golf Course.

Golfers were treated to a typical Kansas windy day and tee off at noon. The tournament was open to the public, and a majority of the entrants were Soldiers,

Amber Anderson, MWR marketing chief, said. Other participants included retired military, Fort Riley employees, contract employees and area residents.

Several joked they were skipping out on work to play in the tournament.

Briggs Auto provided a one-year lease

See Golf, Page 12

## USAMU Soldier takes silver

### 2nd place gets DeWitt Olympic quota slot

KERRVILLE, Texas — In extremely windy conditions at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center May 10, Sgt. 1st Class Theresa E. DeWitt of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit battled to win the Silver Medal in Women's Trap at the World Cup USA.

DeWitt also secured a country Olympic quota spot with her second-place finish.

"When it is this windy, it takes a lot of effort just to stay focused on your game plan," DeWitt said after the match. "I think that shooting the spring selection match last month definitely helped me prepare for these conditions. I knew what to expect and was able to concentrate on getting the job done."

China's Mei Zhu clinched the Gold Medal with a 72 qualifying score and a 17 in the final, for an 89 total score. DeWitt finished with a 71 qualifying and a 17 in the final with an 88, while Susanne Kiermayer of Germany took the Bronze Medal, shooting a 66 qualifying score and a 20 in the final for an 86.

Sgt. 1st Class Jettie R. Dement, also of the USAMU, finished in sixth place after beating out three other shooters to get in the final. Dement shot a 65 qualifying and a 12 in the final for a 77 total score. The USA's other finisher, Lacy Sullivan, shot a 63 to finish in 17th place.

DeWitt's last individual medal came in 1999 in Lonato, Italy, when she won the Silver Medal in Women's Double Trap.

"This was a long-time coming," DeWitt, 43, said. "And it makes it just that much sweeter winning a country quota spot for the next Olympic Games."

DeWitt took up shooting American-style trap as a hobby in 1988 while looking for her first post-college job. But she said she found such jobs, hard to come by. Later that year, she shifted to international style — the Olympic style where the targets are thrown much faster and at much sharper angles than American-style trap.

"The Army provides me the equipment to train and the opportunity to compete at the national and world levels necessary to become a champion and an Olympian," DeWitt said. "It's a great opportunity."

DeWitt joined the Army in 1991 and was assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., after completing basic training and the Military Police School at Fort McClellan, Ala. She competed in Women's

See Marksmanship, Page 12

## Nemechek supports son, Soldiers

### Army racing's 'mom' on duty on, off racetrack

By William Thurmond  
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — When Joe Nemechek slides into his pit box most weekends, he can expect to see Army uniforms on the dozens of Soldiers who routinely attend NASCAR races to see their team in action.

But one uniform will always stand out because it looks like somebody went to clothing sales' Army insignia section and said "saw one of everything on it until you run out of room. Then start over."

But forget about regulations, 'cause an exception is most definitely in order. The lady wearing the one-of-a-kind ACU is none

other than Army racing's (and Joe's) mom — Martha Nemechek. "I just wear the uniform to let people know how much I appreciate all the Soldiers," said Martha.

### Going the extra mile

A track fixture, Martha is Army racing's unofficial goodwill ambassador. If you follow the Army NASCAR team, you've probably seen her on TV. And if you've had the pleasure of meeting her, you remember the experience.

She's not off duty away from the track either. Thanks to e-mail and her generous, giving nature, Martha has found another way to

See Mom, Page 12



Martha Nemechek, Joe Nemechek's mom and number-one fan, cheers for "Front Row Joe" as he leads the field.

ANS/Copeland







## Sports news briefly

### Tuttle Creek Cove Park reopens

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that Tuttle Creek Cove Park reopened to the public May 1. The park was closed most of last year and all this spring for construction of a new campground and related amenities.

The new campground will not open until June 1.

A day use fee is charged for use of the boat ramp and swim beach. Self-pay stations serve those areas. Fees for camping will range from \$12 to \$18.

For more information, call (785) 539-8511.

### Olathe Marathon has relay, 2 runs

The Olathe Marathon May 20 includes a relay, 15-kilometer run and 2.62-mile "Bun Run," besides the 26.2-mile marathon.

Teams of four runners can compete in the marathon relay. Runners follow the historic Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails and even run by Lone Elm Park – the campsite where the three trails converged.

The route also winds through Old Olathe Naval Air Base where astronaut John Glenn and Bob Barker of the Price is Right trained.

Runners start at 142 N. Cherry.

For more information, call (913) 764-1050 or (800) 921-5678 or visit <http://www.olathemarathon.com> on the Web.

### Jaycees host all-night softball

The Jaycees will host an all-night softball showdown from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. May 27-28 at North Park in Junction City.

Teams can pick up registration forms in Junction City at Central National Bank, Wal-Mart, Screen Machine Sports at 115 E. Seventh St., Dick Edwards Auto at 375 Grant Ave. and KJCK Platinum Broadcasting at U.S. Highway 77 and Ash Street.

For more information, call (785) 761-436 or send e-mail to [JunctionCityJaycees@yahoo.com](mailto:JunctionCityJaycees@yahoo.com).

### Personal trainer available on post

A personal trainer is available by appointment for exercise sessions at King Field House.

A 60-minute session costs \$20. A 60-minute session for two people costs \$30.

To set up an appointment, call 313-3165.



Ryan Jones, a Fort Riley wildlife biologist, tries to untangle a male prairie chicken from a net April 17.

## Chickens

continued from page 11

the same areas every year, Jones said. The display grounds are called "leks," a meeting place for single prairie chickens.

Females typically weigh about 800 grams, or a little more than 1.5 pounds. Males weigh more, 950 grams, or about 2 pounds. The smaller females are plain, brown and have no ornamentation. Males can inflate yellow airbags under their eyes and puff out their chest and tail feathers, including a set of yellow eyebrow-like feathers, all in an effort to impress a female. It appears to be working – Fort Riley has an average 20 leks annually, each attracting an average of nine birds.

Jones has worked at Fort Riley since August 2004, but is in his seventh season of trapping. His master's degree research project at Kansas State University was on lesser prairie chickens in the Texas panhandle. He has also worked with greater prairie chick-

## More information

For more information on prairie chickens or other wildlife at Fort Riley, contact the Conservation Office at 239-6211.

ens and the endangered Atwater's prairie chicken.

During the trapping and tagging season, Jones is up seven days a week to visit leks around post. The best thing about his job is spending time out in the prairie, he said. It was his love of the outdoors and the chance to prove a high school guidance counselor wrong that motivated him to pursue a career in wildlife biology.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3328.

## Golf

continued from page 11

on a car to whomever could get a hole in one on the par three seventh hole, which no one was able to do. Other sponsors included Crown Distributors, Pioneer Services and 1st Command Financial Planning.

"We were pleased with the success," said Anderson.

Proceeds from the tournament go back to the course, which must

generate its own money to stay open, Anderson said. Costs include maintaining the greens and pro shop. The entry fee for the tournament was \$45 per person and \$180 per team. Seventy-five players entered the Spring 2005 tournament.

Another tournament will take place in the fall to signal the close of the golf season.

## Mom

continued from page 11

support Soldiers and their families. She spends hours each week communicating with strangers who seek her out. Many do so out of loneliness or racing curiosity.

"I get a lot of e-mails from Soldiers, thanking me for being behind Joe and the Army team. Everybody is aware of Joe and the team, who're always trying their very best to win," says Martha.

They want to know about Joe, his family and what I do, so I fill 'em in on those things. And I also thank them for their service and for protecting us."

### Shared pain

Others contact her out of a more somber need. They've experienced death, sometimes of a loved one or friend in battle, and they need to talk to someone who knows what they're going through.

Martha knows. Her youngest son, John, wrecked in 1997 while racing in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck series in Homestead, Fla. He lay unconscious for five days before he died. He was 27.

"It makes me feel good to be here for somebody who needs to talk, especially if they've lost a buddy or a friend," said Martha. "Most of them say to me '...Mrs. Nemechek, we know you lost a

son, so you know what it's like to lose someone you love.'"

She knew she needed some help, and she got it from a man who was also grieving.

"When John died, I felt like I had no one left. He was my baby. I didn't know what I was going to do with my life," said Martha.

Gordon Collins, who had lost a daughter when a plane went down, wrote to Martha, and together, they slowly came to terms with their losses. After about a year, he encouraged her to take her experience and seek out others.

"I was very nervous, but I found it very rewarding," said Martha. "It helps me find peace within myself, to pass it on, because I have a bond with people who've lost loved ones."

That's what I'm trying to do for other people, 'cause I've been there."

### Mom on duty

As ambassadors of Army racing, Martha and Joe have met literally thousands of Soldiers, some about to deploy, some just returned and some recovering from life-altering wounds.

"We've had a number of Soldiers come to the track with canes, on crutches, or in wheelchairs. Joe gets them in and then tells me

'...OK mom, it's your duty to take 'em around the garage and introduce 'em to all the NASCAR drivers.'"

Relaxing in his team's hauler before a race, Joe Nemechek is quick to credit his mom for her love and support throughout his long and distinguished racing career.

"Racing, like the Army, is dangerous. We know that coming in. I think my mom understands that and she's been there for me; when I've been on top, when I've been on the bottom and when I've been hurt."

The former NASCAR Busch series champion acknowledges that this upcoming weekends is always a hard one for Martha.

"Mother's Day for my mom is a good day, but it's also a tough day, because one of her children is missing."

With mom's big day fast approaching, Martha had some advice to pass along.

"Soldiers: make sure and write your moms a note."

She hopes to be able to visit Soldiers serving overseas later this year. If she does, be on the lookout for a uniform designed to give your sergeant major a fit.

"If there were more I could do, I'd do it. It's an honor for me to be in my uniform."



Courtesy photo

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Sgt. 1st Class Theresa E. DeWitt earned a Silver Medal in Women's Trap at the World Cup USA.

## Marksmanship

continued from page 11

Double Trap in the 1996 Olympics, finishing in fourth place and missing the medal by one point.

After winning the title of the 1996 Army Female Athlete of the Year, DeWitt was named 1996 Armed Forces Female Athlete of

the Year by the U.S. Military Sports Association.

Besides being the only 1996 Olympic shooter to be photographed by world-famous photographer Annie Leibovitz for the 1996 official Olympics book, DeWitt was also honored by Pres-

ident Bill Clinton at the White House in 1996.

DeWitt said her short-term goal is to bring home an Olympic Gold Medal and her long-term goal is to stay in the Army and reach the rank of sergeant major.

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, May 19, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

## Community news briefly

### Library begins summer program

Children are invited to join "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" summer reading program at the Fort Riley Library. The 2006 Summer Reading Program is open to young people from age 2 to students who will be entering eighth grade in the fall. Young readers can earn prizes by reading, attending story times, and completing animal-themed worksheets.

The program will kick off with a visit by balloon artist Hannah Pauls at the May 20 storytime at 1:30 p.m. After the story "Where Do Balloons Go?" Pauls will make animal-shaped balloons for the kids. Parents can sign their children up for the reading program from May 16 through May 23 during regular library hours. The program will end June 24.

Readers who complete the program goals will be invited to a special appearance of the "Animal Ambassadors" from Sunset Zoo in Manhattan at the end of the program.

The Fort Riley Library is located in Building 5306 Hood Drive, on Custer Hill. The library is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The library is closed on Mondays. For more information, contact Victoria Martin at 239-5305.

### Commissary slates family fest

A Family Fun Fest is planned at the Fort Riley commissary from noon to 7 p.m. July 15. Free food, games, live entertainment and giveaways are planned.

### Quilt class set at crafts center

Quilting classes scheduled for May 20, June 24 and July 8 will show participants how to make a quilt using eight fat quarters. Stop in and see the sample. For more information, call 239-9205.

### Guitar lesson available on post

Introduction to guitar, a beginners class for new guitar students, will be taught by Matt McCann on Wednesdays in the School Age Services Building.

Students ages 6 to 10 will have class from 6 to 6:25 p.m. and from 6:30 to 6:55 p.m. Students ages 11 to 18 will have class from 7 to 7:25 p.m. and from 7:30 to 7:55 p.m.

The first class was May 10. Lessons cost \$25 and \$30. Level two guitar classes for students completing the introduction to guitar will begin June 10 in the School Age Services Building and continue on Tuesdays. The instructor will be Austin Meek.

Students ages 6 to 10 will attend classes from 6 to 6:25 p.m. or from 6:30 to 6:55 p.m. Students ages 11 to 18 will attend classes from 7 to 7:25 p.m. or from 7:30 to 7:55 p.m.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

## Cemetery gets green light for development

By Alison Kohler  
Community Relations Assistant

Depending on who you ask, it's a project 7-10 years in the making. Now a veterans' cemetery located on Wildcat Creek Road behind the Manhattan Regional Airport has been approved. "We have the land. It's good news," said Kafer Peele, cemetery program director for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

Kyle Morrison, project architect, said the expected date to open for burials is October 2008. "We've just barely started on design and this is my best estimate," Morrison said.

There are two options currently under consideration. According to Peele, the traditional proposal would involve 12 months of design and planning and another 12-14 months of construction. The second option, a fast-track

option, would involve developing the front of the cemetery and the entrance. A modular building would be used for the administration building and a shed would be brought in for the equipment, Morrison said.

"What that accomplishes is we're able to offer that service 10-12 months sooner. The downside is the image you open with. You don't have a finished product," Morrison said. "There are trade-

offs to making that decision. Don't think we'll get more money because we opted for fast track," he said.

"Fast-tracking costs more money," Peele said.

Morrison explained that because only a portion of the cemetery would be complete, construction farther out would continue once the front area opened for burials. That would mean there would be heavy equip-

ment moving dirt and causing dust. "It ultimately boils down to aesthetics and when you can open for burials," said George Webb, executive director for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

There have been concerns about the post cemetery reaching capacity, but the November tornado uprooted some trees and created more space, Webb said. "The question is: How much of a hurry

See Cemetery, Page 15

## Dancing dynamos



Post/Morelock

Dynamic Dance Dynamo Summer Raines snaps her head to the right as she practices during the dance class May 15 at the Teen Center.

## Dancers learn ballet, jazz, hip hop

By Anna Morelock  
Staff writer

Best friends and budding dancers Summer Raines and Jordan Meyer had the dance floor almost all to themselves May 15 at the Teen Center. The other person sharing it was their instructor for Dynamic Dance Dynamos, a combination dance class offered on Monday nights for kids ages 5 to 7.

Instructor Vickie Woods, who's been dancing for 18 years, teaches the kids a combination of ballet, jazz and hip hop dances. During the 45 minute session they make sure to leave time for stretching and a few minutes at the end for freestyle dancing and movement.

The class, which normally has five students, is still open for others to join. To find out more about this class and others offered through the SKIES program, contact 239-4723 or visit <http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Family/CYS/>.



Summer Raines, instructor Vickie Woods and Jordan Meyer practice ballet moves during the Dynamic Dance Dynamos class May 15 at the Teen Center.

Post/Morelock

## Picerne begins office remodels

### Congress approves development partnership

By Cassidy Hill

Picerne comm. manager

Congress approved the 50-year partnership between Fort Riley and Picerne Military Housing regarding on-post military housing.

The partners received notice from Department of the Army April 28 that Congress approved the submitted Community Development and Management Plan that provides the foundation for how Picerne will build, renovate, maintain and manage on-post family housing.

Picerne has begun preparing for the transition that is expected to be completed by July 1.

The property management plan calls for a management and maintenance staff centrally located in each neighborhood in order to address housing issues quickly.

To serve the families and make services more readily available, Picerne Military Housing will establish six neighborhoods, four on Custer Hill, one on Main Post and one in Camp Forsyth. Over the next 10 years, Picerne will create a seventh neighborhood in Camp Forsyth across Trooper Drive from the commissary.

The Residential Communities Initiative office and Picerne have identified homes to be converted into six temporary neighborhood offices where the neighborhood managers, maintenance supervisors and their teams will be located.

Renovation work on the six neighborhood offices is under way, and all of them will be ready for Picerne operations beginning July 1.

The names of the six neighborhoods and the neighborhood office locations are:

Ellis Heights - Office at 44864 Roosevelt Street  
Peterson Heights - Office at

See Picerne, Page 15

## Marriage & Military Life

## Treating symptoms often too little, too late

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka  
Retired Navy chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas, Thank you for your articles that my husband and I have been reading on military.com. Our relationship has also benefited from your book that we learned about from "Dear Abby."

— Debbie

Dear Debbie,

I'm always thankful and encouraged to receive e-mails from couples who benefit from my column published in military newspapers and online. Unfortunately, many commands don't appreciate the tremendous potential their publications and Web sites have on affecting the lives of their personnel and family

members. Let me illustrate this with an example:

A commanding officer recently ordered a stand-down after a member of his command committed suicide. This typical reaction is generally too little and too late.

It's too little because suicide prevention training deals primarily with symptoms, such as warn-

See Too Little, Page 14

### About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military."

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at [letters@plaintec.net](mailto:letters@plaintec.net)





Post/Stairrett

Kerigan Wise accessorizes a dollhouse she and her sister, Sierra, were offering for sale during Fort Riley's post-wide yard sale. The sisters said they were trying to sell the dollhouse because they didn't play with it anymore.

## Bargin hunters search for deals at post-wide yard sale

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Staff writer

Wofford Street was bustling with activity late in the morning May 7. The reason: Fort Riley's semi-annual post-wide yard sale.

Parked vehicles lined the street, some pick-up beds already packed with furniture.

Shoppers lined the streets, looking for good deals on designer clothes, a dollhouse, vases, video games, cook books, an 18-foot pop-up camper, an 18-foot trampoline, a gun safe – just about anything a bargain hunter could desire.

Though the yard sale didn't officially begin until 8 a.m., bargain hunters were on post early – PT time early – and traffic on Wofford Street had been constant

since 7:30 a.m. Sellers said they talked with shoppers from Topeka, Council Grove and even Missouri who said they had come to Fort Riley just for the yard sale.

"It is serious. People are really serious," Nicole Morrison said. Early birds were peeking under her partially open garage door at 6:30 that morning.

"You can sell anything," a friend of Morrison's joked.

With two kids, Morrison had plenty to offer – mainly toys and clothes. Her largest sell was a gun safe her husband had tried, quite unsuccessfully, to give away to friends. It drew a large number of male shoppers and was one of the first things to go.

"My husband didn't think it would sell," she said proudly. He was just disappointed his Sega Genesis game system hadn't

attracted the right buyer.

Morrison said a lot of kids were interested in it, but a lot of mothers said, "No."

This was the second time Penny Gordon, another Wofford Street resident, participated in the post-wide yard sale. Last year, her family had just transferred from Hawaii and had a lot of surfing and beach gear – something not so useful in Kansas.

A family down the street was getting ready to move to Hawaii, and the Gordon family's gear was a hot commodity.

The sales were good, but the best part about the event was meeting so many different people, Gordon said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at [amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil](mailto:amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil) or 239-3328.

### Community news briefly

#### CAC to meet

The next meeting of the Community Action Council will be 10 a.m. to noon June 13 at Riley's Conference Center, Building 446, Seitz Drive, on Main Post.

Attendees will receive briefings on programs and activities at Fort Riley.

Future meetings are scheduled for July 18, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Dec. 6.

For more information, call the Community Life Coordinator at (785) 239-9435 or stop by at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, on Normandy Drive or send e-mail to [site2665@riley.army.mil](mailto:site2665@riley.army.mil)

#### Colleges to attend 'fair' on post

A college fair is being planned from 3 to 6 p.m. June 3 at the Fort Riley Teen Center, Building 5800.

The fair will provide high school seniors and juniors infor-

mation about each school's programs. For more information, call 239-9222.

#### Operation Holiday collecting for dads

Operation Holidays is collecting items for deployed Soldiers in honor of Father's Day. Packages will be shipped June 10.

Items the organization will be collecting are Post-It brand picture paper printed with pictures of their children and phone cards.

Spouses can e-mail their children's pictures to [kathy@operationholidays.com](mailto:kathy@operationholidays.com) along with the Soldier's name to have them printed. Pictures need to be received no later than May 31.

Operation Holidays would also like to offer gift certificates to spouses of deployed Soldiers in the states for these holidays.

For more information on where to send donations, contact Kathy Alvarez at [kathy@operationholidays.com](mailto:kathy@operationholidays.com) or (785) 375-2086.

## Too little

continued from page 13

ing signs, and not causes.

Fifteen years ago I almost died when the doc at our deployed command was treating my symptoms (i.e., low-grade temperature, fatigue, weight loss) with antibiotics, instead of addressing the cause of these symptoms (cancer). Fortunately, my decision to get a second opinion resulted in a correct diagnosis followed by a year of radiation and chemotherapy that saved my life.

Consequently, in addition to recognizing symptoms of fatal problems like suicide (e.g., depression, increased substance use, behavioral and personality changes), it's essential that we also address the causes of suicide.

And what is the number one cause of suicides in the military? Relationship problems.

Military stand-downs for suicides are too late because the person that is most responsible for the event is dead. What did the command do to help prevent his suicide? What are commands doing to help strengthen dating and marital relationships that can affect the way personnel deal with "Dear John" letters and difficult divorces?

When I reviewed a few recent editions of a military base newspaper, I discovered articles about VIP visits, sporting events and local entertainment, but not one small article from a chaplain, family support counselor or any professional dealing with dating, marriage or family topics. While I'm not hurt if a military newspaper or Web site chooses not to run my marriage column or print any of my relationship articles, I am upset when I see a failure on the part of public affairs officers, editors and

webmasters not to publish articles that proactively address relationship topics that can impact divorce, abuse and suicide rates.

I am I too harsh when I judge this to be an example of irresponsible military journalism?

Because many people in the military are hesitant to speak with chaplains and family support counselors mainly out of concern for confidentiality, I believe it is incumbent upon military newspapers and Web sites to provide personnel and their family members with information that their readers may not be obtaining from professionals.

Rather than being reactive in advertising an upcoming command stand-down, why can't military media resources be more proactive in addressing the causes of problems that can harm the people at their com-

mands?

How difficult is it to provide their readers with a "Chaplain's Corner" or publish a weekly column that can impact their psychological and spiritual quality of life?

I encourage commanding officers to take a good look at their base newspapers and Web sites and decide if they find them proactive in helping to reduce the particular problems that they are confronting on a day-to-day basis (e.g., alcohol abuse, accidents, domestic violence).

While it may be too late to save the life of the person who moved the CO to order the stand-down, it's not too late to prevent other personnel from taking their lives because of relationship problems they find impossible to resolve on their own.

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## Community news briefly

### Crafts center lists activities

**May 20** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3-D building in glass

**May 21** – 1 to 2:30 p.m., scrap-booking get together

**May 21** – 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross stitch

**May 22** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning sewing

**May 22** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., stained glass – beginners (session 3, class 4)

**May 23** – 6 to 9 p.m., matting and framing

**May 23** – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., stained glass – beginners (session 4, class 5)

**May 24** – noon to 1 p.m., make it, take it

Open hours for using the Arts and Crafts Center's wood shop, ceramics studio, matting and framing studio, computer lab, photography lab and doing stained glass, sewing, quilting, basket weaving and leatherwork are:

Monday and Tuesday from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Classes are available in the evenings and on weekends in all program areas. A schedule of upcoming classes is available at the center and in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Guide.

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

### New dads can attend 'boot camp'

On Tuesday, May 23rd, 2006 at the Family Network Learning Center in the basement of the Municipal Building will offer a class for fathers-to-be from 6 to 9 p.m., May 23.

"Boot Camp for New Dads" is a national program designed to help rookie dads who are expecting their first baby feel comfortable with their upcoming new infant. These rookie dads will be assisted by veteran

dads and their babies.

The three-hour class will focus on the changing roles and responsibilities of a man becoming a father, ways in which he can support his mate and new mom and hands-on skills of caring for an infant.

Veteran dads will demonstrate burping, swaddling, changing diapers, etc. and provide the rookies an opportunity to handle the baby.

Other topics for discussion include safety issues, preventing child abuse, bonding, balancing work and family and forming a parenting team.

For more information or to register, call Kathy Williams in the Innovations in Schools and Community office at 717-4021 or send e-mail to Jim Williams at jimwilliams@usd475.org.

### Massages offered at field house

Massages are being offered in King Field House. Some sessions specialize in Swedish and pregnancy massages.

Cost is \$18 for 30 minutes, \$35 for an hour and \$48 for 90 minutes.

Call 210-7656 to make an appointment.

### Teen Center lists activities

**May 19** – 6 to 11 p.m., family mini golf in Topeka

**May 19** – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Family Fitness Night

**May 20** – 3 to 4 p.m., youth sponsorship

**May 20** – 9 p.m. to midnight, Midnight Basketball

**May 26** – 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

**May 27** – 6 to 9 p.m., family pot luck and parent advisory meeting

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

## Cemetery

continued from page 13

are we in?" he said.

According to Webb, the cemetery will be named the State Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Riley. Peele said the headstones will be uniform granite. "They will be identical to all of the state cemeteries," he said.

The proposed entry would be three-lanes, with one entrance and two exit lanes, one of them being a left-turn lane, Morrison said. "The traffic comes at once and leaves at once," he said.

Morrison said an open-air shelter will take the place of a tent, and there will be an electronic grave locator. To find out where someone is buried, a person can put in a name and print out a map.

The cemetery will be 90 acres in all, but only about one-third to half of the acres would be developed in phase one, Morrison said. "Phase one is designed to provide 10-20 years of burial at the calculated rate we expect," Morrison said.

The Veterans' Administration funds the cemetery development, and the state funds the operating and maintenance costs, Webb said. "It's a \$6.8 million project. That's the ballpark figure right now."

According to Morrison, the federal funds in a grant program are already committed, but it's unknown whether the money will come from the fiscal year 2007 or

2008 budget.

According to Webb, Congressman Jerry Moran met with the VA to see if it was possible to come up with \$5 to \$6 million for fiscal year 2007. "We are one of the first two projects for funding in '08. If Moran can get us the money to start in '07, that would be great," Peele said.

There's a gap to line up for federal funding, Morrison said. He said they can't bid or award a construction contract until they have the funding. "We would finish design and basically put it on a shelf," he said.

There's something to say about money in your hand, instead of in the bush. This (project) has a history of being delayed a little bit," Dick Jepsen, a member of the advisory committee, said.

Webb said a representative from the cemetery program met with the residents in the area and they found "mixed reviews."

The more information we give them, the more satisfied they are. They were concerned about traffic, but that is the industrial park, which already existed. They all have wells, so there were concerns about herbicides and decomposition. We're doing research to satisfy their concerns," Webb said.

A few yards outside the cemetery will be kept open for room to



PAO Kohler

A resident who lives near the site of the future veterans' cemetery, shakes hands with an engineer working on the project.

grow if the road needs to expand, Webb said.

A question was raised as to whether it would be difficult to find contractors to do the construction given their current workload in the region. Morrison said he has found they want to be

involved. "One of the neatest things about this is the interest from the subcontractors. They'll say, 'I plan to bring my grandkids to this to show them I was a part of this.' We're building for the long-term," Morrison said.

## Picerne

continued from page 13

5157 Elwell Street  
**Warner Heights** – Office at 6369 Hampton Place

**The Loops** – Office at 6718-1 McClellan Loop

**Main Post** – Office at 150-B Huebner Road

**Colyer Manor** – Office at 3011 Craig Avenue

For more information about Picerne Military Housing or the neighborhood offices, call (785) 717-2200.

Contact information for the neighborhood offices will be provided to each resident and published in the Post when it becomes available.

### Picerne to hold lease-signing forum



Picerne Military Housing will host a lease signing forum at 6:30 p.m. May 30 at Barlow Theater.

The forum is designed specifically to accommodate Soldiers and their families who were unable to attend previously scheduled briefs about family housing privatization.

During the forum, Soldiers and their family members will have an opportunity to ask questions about privatization and sign their Resident Occupancy Agreement.

Since January, Picerne has been giving unit briefs and collecting signed ROAs. Although the servicemember is responsible for signing the ROA, family members are encouraged to attend the signing forums.

All Soldiers who live in Fort Riley's on-post family housing need to sign their ROA.

For more information about Picerne Military Housing or the lease signing forums, call (785) 717-2200.

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3 x 10"  
Black Only  
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3 x 10"  
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3x10 Am Fam Ins/#1039



## Community news briefly

### Stories feature things that go

Trains, buses, balloons – all “Things That Go!” – will be the story time topics in May at the Fort Riley Library. All Fort Riley families are invited to attend story times at 1:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. every Saturday.

Have you ever wondered “Where Do Balloons Go?” On May 20, hear a story by Jamie Lee Curtis that answers that question. After the 1:30 story, Hannah Pauls, a balloon artist from Manhattan, will make balloon animals for the story time listeners. This is also an opportunity to sign children up for the summer reading program.

“Thomas the Tank Engine” and his friends will wrap up “Things That Go” month on May 27. Thomas is a favorite with pre-schoolers all over the world.

The Post Library is located in Building 5306 on Custer Hill. Operating hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 239-5305.

### FCC providers needed on post

More home childcare providers are being sought from among post residents.

Requirements to be a family child care provider include the successful completion of background clearances on all family members over age 12 living in the home, the ability to read, write and speak English effectively, the ability to interact with children in a loving, positive and developmentally appropriate manner, being 18 years of age or older and living in on-post housing.

Family Child Care holds an orientation meeting the second Thursday of each month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Child and Youth Services, Building 6620. The next orientation will be June 8.

For more information, call the FCC representative at 239-9892.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1 x 2.5"  
Black Only  
1x2.5 1st Press May/06

CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL  
1 x 6"  
Black Only  
1x6 Plaza Hotel Splash

# Author explains ‘brat’ culture

By Samantha L. Quigley  
AFPS

WASHINGTON – Military “brats” are powerfully shaped by the culture they grow up in, and that culture makes a lasting impression, author Mary Edwards Wertsch believes.

“It has everything to do with everything that’s ever happened in my life,” the St. Louis resident said.

Wertsch, who wrote “Military Brats: Legacies of Childhood Inside the Fortress,” lived in 20 houses and attended 12 schools during her father’s career as an Army infantryman.

“I wouldn’t trade that life for anything,” she said. “I don’t think I’ve ever met a ‘brat’ who would.”

This culture that often feels rootless to those living in it has made Wertsch and her contemporaries who they are today, she said.

A feeling of being a “nowhere kid” followed Wertsch into her adult life. It was only after seeing “The Great Santini,” a character study of a gung-ho Marine pilot and his relationship with his family, in 1980 that she realized others had grown up feeling the same way she had. This revelation prompted Wertsch to write her book.

“I was just totally thunderstruck by that movie. I thought, ‘We weren’t alone after all,’” she said. “The fact is, we do come from someplace, but how are we going to know that? No one ever tells us this.”

It’s up to “brats” to recognize they are part of a real culture, and with this knowledge comes an identity, she said. “I think it really puts in the missing piece of the puzzle to understand where we came from – our own rooted culture,” Wertsch said.

She acknowledged there are challenges to growing up in the military culture, but noted the good outweighs the bad.

“In terms of positives, oh, my gosh!” Wertsch said. “We can be plunked down into any social setting and make our way very well. People of any class, any back-

ground, any line of work, we can join right in and talk with them and be quite comfortable.”

She remembers thinking it would be neat to be like her civilian cousins and go to school with people she had always known. But that lifestyle just wasn’t natural for her, she said.

New challenges and new places were, and “brats” aren’t afraid of either, she said. Putting down roots, on the other hand, can be difficult.

“We’ve lived in St. Louis for 11 years, and in this particular house for 10, which is three times longer than I have ever lived anywhere in my life,” she said. Wertsch and her husband, a civilian professor, raised two boys there.

Wertsch said she sought to be authoritative, but not authoritarian in rearing her sons. While there were distinct rules, she said she tried to help guide them to the right choices and decisions, not just impose these upon them. At the same time, they learned very similar values to those she learned growing up, she said.

Those values are at the core of her being, she said.

“I’m talking about a great deal beyond waving the flag,” she said.

“I’m talking about rock-bottom things like integrity and honesty and an attitude of anti-racism, not just non-racism. Things like loyalty and doing what you say you’re going to do – follow-through.”

Wertsch said her biggest reward as a “brat” is the understanding that her life had meaning because she was serving a meaningful mission.

“The beautiful thing about the military is that it’s in service to a mission that is larger than oneself,” Wertsch said. “Those of us raised in the military never lose that once we are out in civilian life. We always want to live in service.”

In fulfilling that desire, Wertsch has founded Brightwell Publishing, which specializes in books that explore and strengthen military “brat” cultural identity.



19th PAD/Thacker

## Refreshing donation

Spc. Angela Pace, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), enjoys a sports drink after her morning physical training. The sports drink, water, fruit and doughnuts were all provided by the American Federation of Labor and Congress Industrial Organizations. Phil Petty, Manhattan, Jim Cox, Wamego, Jim Grunwald, Topeka, and Mark Shughart, Topeka, came together for the second year to thank the Soldiers for their service by donating the after PT refreshments. The organization is almost as old as Fort Riley, Petty said. “Fort Riley and its Soldiers have been a part of our lives and we support them,” he said.

USA DISCOUNTERS  
3 x 10.5"  
Black Only  
BLW/PU 5/5/06





# Fort Riley Middle School announces 5th 6-week honor rolls

Officials at Fort Riley Middle School have released selections for the fifth six weeks Principal's Honor Roll and Trooper Honor Roll.

Those making the Principal's Honor Roll had to maintain a 3.5 or higher grade point average and have no C's on their reports.

Those making the Trooper Honor Roll must have maintained a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA and have no more than one C on their report.

## Principal's Honor Roll

### Sixth Grade

Troy Adams  
Jocelyn Aguilar  
Shameice Banks  
Kendra Baskin  
Maggi Birchmeier  
Charisa Boberg  
Shade Bornemann  
Jonathan Boyd  
Davis Broadwater  
Hannah Bullard  
Brandika Cadenhead  
Austin Cargill  
Courtney Clyde  
Brittany Cook  
Heather Delio  
Jonathan Dirks  
Kyle Dyson  
Jacob Elliott  
Mark Emmer  
Nicole Farver  
Jonathan Filatrault  
Lucas Freeman  
Jaelen Gadson  
Kayla Haack  
Austin Hansen  
Rowan Harris  
Weslie Hatfield  
Gregory Haug  
Antonio Hill  
Joseph Hill  
Damaris Jimenez  
Kally Johns  
Jordan Lahip-Ramelb  
Matthew Lee  
Aisha-Shamika Lockhart  
Rose Lucero  
Stephanie Malone  
Caroline Michael  
Alyssa Moenning  
Lauren Moss  
Taylor Nagle  
Christian Nott  
Kretchen Olmeda  
Evergreen Osa  
Michael Pappal  
Blake Parker  
Tegyn Perkins  
Taylor Pittard  
Taylor Popple

Hunter Postier  
Dylen Raastad  
Tevin Raines  
Josiah Robinson  
Mootafao Salu  
Nicole Santiago  
Katherine Seigel  
Destiny Shakespear  
Jose Sierra III  
Matthew Solis  
Coltyn Vazquez  
Clayton Vermeesch  
Alexander Weaver  
Michelle Westerman  
Elizabeth Yoast  
Nicholas Young

### Seventh Grade

Annelise Apodaca  
Erik Baker  
Shabazz Brumfield  
Katelyn Callahan  
Justine Cerna  
Emmanuel Cockrell  
Ryan Cooper  
Alyssa Crowell  
Rebecca Dirks  
Christopher Fortin  
Elizabeth Grammel  
McKenzie Hardy  
Wesley Hill  
Connor Howard  
Zachary Jones  
McKenna Kelly  
Hillary Konken  
Leah Kundel  
Brittany Lavalleur  
Melissa Leturgez  
Cindy Malone  
Amanda McElroy  
Ariel McQueen  
Alexis Miskevish  
Orel Moran  
Paricia Nauta  
Ian Palmer  
Ashley Rogers-Floro  
Zachary Sankey  
Samantha Satterlee  
Valerie Serna  
Bettina Smith  
Hanna Sul  
Ashley Thomas  
Mikala Walter  
Kenaura Warren  
Frankie Zachar VII

### Eighth Grade

Dadnille Adams  
Katherine Balsamo  
Justin Baublitz  
Daris Benton  
Taylor Berry  
Alexander Bertucci  
Zachary Birchmeier  
Mikela Brown  
Samantha Courts  
Bria Dansby  
James Davison

Jade Dwell  
Joshua Eckel  
Gabriella Gadson  
Jeffery Graham  
Jostiah Robinson  
Shannon Grammel  
Kylee Gray  
Tara Haas  
Jazmene Hartage  
Samantha Hernandez  
Megan Hertel  
Brittany Hitchcock  
Darren Hobson  
Morgan Holmes  
Angela Joyner  
Sydney Krueger  
Christian Kubik  
Natascha Lamica  
Brittany McBride  
Micah McGary  
Matthew Miller  
Thomas Miskevish  
Raachel Nelson  
Karla Pagan  
Falestu Pohabau  
Samuel Quintas  
Jasmine Smiley  
Johnisha Smith  
Brent Stroh  
Cassandra Townsend  
Christina Valentin  
Brandi Washington  
Christina Westerman  
Andrew Winger

## Trooper Honor Roll

### Sixth Grade

Zachary Auman  
Angel Burnside  
Tara Chapman  
Christian Cole  
Eric Dixon  
Abigail Ebersole  
Michelle Freeman  
Iesha Fujiwara  
Medina Gregory  
Jaelyn Hall  
Oscar Hall  
Barriel Hanson  
Donald Hester  
Yanira Ibarra  
Precious Laupati  
Kemony Louis  
Nicole Love  
Mackenzie Moser  
Brandon Nylen  
Ashley Peebles  
Jermaine Phillips  
Taylor Pitz  
Jason Purkapile II  
William Razey  
Rafael Rodriguez  
Nathaniel Sankey  
Shelbie Sizemore  
Brendon Steward  
Derrick Swanson

Joshua Tutman  
Christopher Valladolid  
Bricana Williams  
Sierra Wise  
Jonathan Wolford

### Seventh Grade

Thomas Alvares  
Lawrence Berkley  
Megan Black  
Tyler Croston  
Jawan Herron  
Brendan Higgenbottom  
Brandon Hobbie  
Staci Holubek  
George Hoyte  
Natalie Kelley  
Joseph Lannon  
Jonathan Lindquist  
Kasha McDougald  
Troy Miller, Jr.  
Monica Nielsen  
Loara Ocasio  
Courtney Paige  
Trevor Pond  
Dominika Pullmann  
Andrew Reinhardt  
Kellie Richards  
Andrea Smith  
Dylan Soper  
Samantha Vanripper  
Samantha Veasy

### Eighth Grade

Miguel Adame  
Anthony Alenxander  
Lauren Apodaca  
Meshawn Armstrong  
Tyler Barnes  
Romell Boyce  
Karla Castro

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BIG BOWL LANES  
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### COUNTRY STAMPEDE

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country stampe







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Black Only  
3x2 4x4Land MayTF

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Black Only  
3x15 Doc directory

runover  
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Black Only







# Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, May 19, 2006

## Leisure time ideas

### At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

**May 19** — ATL (PG-13) 107 Min

**May 20** — Ice Age 2 (PG) 90 Min

**May 21** — Take the Lead (PG-13) 108 Min

**May 25** — Phat Girls (PG-13) 98 Min

**May 26** — Ice Age 2 (PG) 90 Min

**May 27** — Lucky Number Slevin (R) 110 Min

**May 28** — Benchwarmers (PG-13) 85 Min

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

## Correction

The story "Fun in the Sun" run in the May 12 Post listed Information, Ticketing and Registration's summer hours as 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The correct hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

## Juneteenth celebration set in JC

By Gail Parsons

Director, JCAC

A full day of family activities, games and food will highlight Junction City's eighth annual celebration of Juneteenth.

The celebration begins June 9 with an art exhibit by a nationally renowned black artist from Parsons, Kan. Skip Smith has gained recognition for his depictions of the black experience, the civil rights movement and the disability rights movement.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Junction City Arts Council, will

open with a special showing from 6 to 8 p.m.

The following day, June 10, the celebration will be in full swing at the Twelfth Street Community Center. Organizer Joniece Pitts said the celebration is about freedom. It marks the anniversary of the day that slaves in Texas and Oklahoma learned that two and a half years earlier President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves.

The freedom celebration begins with a parade from the Buffalo Soldier Monument to the Twelfth Street Community Cen-

ter, where several events are planned for the day. They include Tae Kwon Do demonstrations and a performance by the Boys and Girls Club's new Hip Hop Dance group.

Throughout the day, DJ Smooth from Manhattan will provide music and Old School Revue will bring attendees on a trip down memory lane with the old-school sounds of '70s and '80s rock and roll.

Pitts said she is also hoping that several of the area churches will participate this year to bring the talents of the church choirs to

the stage for a Gospel concert.

People who prefer to take an active role in the day are invited to sign up for the barbecue cook-off, the picnic side dish cook-off or the three-on-three basketball tournament.

Entry fees are \$25 for the barbecue cook-off and \$30 per team for the basketball tournament. There are no entry fees for the side-dish cook-off, and participants in that competition may sell their dishes after the judging is over.

Barbecue cooks will receive a chef's apron and prizes will be

given to the top three chefs. First prize is cash, the amount is yet to be determined; second prize is a grill, and third prize is a trophy.

Prizes and T-shirts also will be given to the basketball participants.

Vendors are invited to set up for the day. Vendors with a product to sell are asked to pay a \$10 donation and informational vendors may set up a booth for free.

For more information on any of the events, to participate in the parade or any activities or to volunteer to help, call Pitts at 238-4367.

## RiverFest promises fun in Kansas City

Special to the Post

Kansas City will kick-off the long Fourth of July weekend with a bang at the 2006 KC Riverfest June 30 and continue the fun through July 1 at Berkley Riverfront Park.

The free, family-centered celebration will include water sports, live music, food from Kansas City's favorite restaurants, games, cars, crafts and, of course, a spectacular fireworks display.

Kansas City's signature celebration will make a new splash this year with professional water skiers performing "Tricks & Flips Action Sports" on and along the Missouri River. RiverFest also will feature extreme BMX bike stunts and demonstrations, an Apache helicopter, professional kite flying demonstrations, Kansas City's River Boardwalk with carnival rides, vendors,

exhibits, mobile aquarium and more.

Friday night will feature a hot air "Balloon Glow" at dusk, followed by JAZZ's Jambalaya River Jam — a Cajun party with music, food and dancing on the river.

On Saturday night, nationally known musical entertainers, The McFadden Brothers and Liverpool, will perform.

Fireworks and lasers will light up the sky for the grand finale when the renowned Zambeli Fireworks and Image Engineering presents KC's PyroLaser Spectacular, a night sky spectacle choreographed to music.

Parking is limited at Berkley Park and is \$5 a car. A shuttle will run to the Riverfest every 10 to 15 minutes. Shuttle rides are \$2, children 5 and under ride free.

For more information, visit [www.kcriverfest.com](http://www.kcriverfest.com) on the Web.

## Fair finalizes concert line-up

Special to the Post

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — From blue-collar comedy to sweet country harmony, the 2006 Kansas State Fair will be rockin'.

Bill Engvall, Raven Symone with Lil' J and Sugarland with Trent Tomlinson round out this year's grandstand acts. They'll join Carrie Underwood with Jamey Johnson, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Trace Adkins with Miranda Lambert and the Steve Miller Band.

Tickets go on sale at 7 a.m., May 13. All tickets are available at the Kansas State Fair office by calling (800) 362-3247. Tickets are also available through Select-a-Seat outlets or online at [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com). Prices include gate admission if purchased by Aug. 31 unless otherwise noted. The state fair is scheduled for Sept. 8-17 in Hutchinson.

Bill Engvall will appear at 7 p.m. Sept. 8. For more information, visit [www.billengvall.com](http://www.billengvall.com). Ticket price for this comedy act is \$25.

Raven Symone with Lil' J will appear at 7 p.m. Sept. 15. Visit [www.ravenlive.com](http://www.ravenlive.com) for more information. Tickets for this concert are \$10.

Lil' J appears at 7 p.m. Sept. 15. For more information, visit [www.lilj4ever.com](http://www.lilj4ever.com). Tickets for the Symone-Lil' J concert are \$10.

Sugarland will perform at 7 p.m. Sept. 16. For more information, visit [www.sugarlandmusic.com](http://www.sugarlandmusic.com). Tickets for this concert are \$25.

Trent Tomlinson will perform at 7 p.m. Sept. 16. Visit <http://trenttomlinson.musiccitynetworks.com/index> for more information. Tickets for the Sugarland-Tomlinson concert are \$25.

The Governor's Military Council is supporting Sept. 17 as

Military Day at the State Fair this year. Through sponsorship by the Governor's Military Council and the Kansas Department of Commerce, there will be free gate admission to all military with military I.D., including veterans.

Four other activities will promote the military in Kansas at the fair.

A Military Display: The Kansas State Fair will provide the Kansas-based military an area to display various pieces of equipment.

Free Stages: The Kansas State Fair will provide Kansas military use of the Altell Gazebo and Lake Talbott stages for military entertainment groups or ceremonies. The State Fair staff has requested booking these events as soon as possible so that they may fill unused time slots. Send information to Mary Perez [mperez@kansascommerce.com](mailto:mperez@kansascommerce.com) with a copy to Aaron Otto [aaron.otto@gov.state.ks.us](mailto:aaron.otto@gov.state.ks.us).

U.S. ARMY REENLISTMENT  
6 x 10.5"  
Black Only  
671648 Durn pu 1/30

